



JUL 27 1999

Michael J. O'Toole, Jr., P.E.
Director, Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233

Dear Mr. O'Toole:

This letter pertains to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Site and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence with one of the major remedial action components specified in that document.

The major remedial components of the March 1997 ROD for the site include:

- the design and construction of a waterline extension which will connect all impacted residents to a potable water supply;
- the excavation of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of trichloroethene-contaminated soil and on-site treatment by ex-situ soil vapor extraction; and,
- the installation of a bedrock vapor extraction system within a 10-acre dense nonaqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) zone.

EPA hereby concurs with the installation of the waterline extension as defined in the ROD. EPA believes however, that the ROD does not adequately address the restoration of ground waters to their beneficial use as required in the National Contingency Plan and that restoration of the aquifer must be evaluated. As mutually agreed upon by our respective staffs, EPA will assume the lead for future ground-water studies.

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Also, through discussions with your staff, we understand that the DEC is evaluating new information regarding the applicability of innovative technologies to the remediation of overburden soils at the spill site. Therefore, at this time, EPA reserves its concurrence as to the remediation of source area soils, pending evaluation of the innovative technologies for the shallow soils. Our respective staffs also mutually agreed that EPA would assume the lead for the source area remedy after this evaluation has been completed.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please call Richard Caspe at (212) 637-4390.

Sincerely,



Jeanne M. Fox
Regional Administrator

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